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10/560,256	03/08/2007	Masaki Hirose	450106-05228	5011

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William S Frommer
Frommer Lawrence & Haug
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151

EXAMINER

DAZENSKI, MARC A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/560,256	Applicant(s) HIROSE ET AL.	
	Examiner MARC DAZENSKI	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 22 September 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 9-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The USPTO "Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility" (Official Gazette notice of 22 November 2005), Annex IV, reads as follows:

In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. See Lowry, 32 F.3d at 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d at 1035.

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Claims that recite nothing but the physical characteristics of a form of energy, such as a frequency, voltage, or the strength of a magnetic field, define energy or magnetism, per se, and as such are nonstatutory natural phenomena. O'Reilly, 56 U.S. (15 How.) at 112-14. Moreover, it does not appear that a claim reciting a signal encoded with functional descriptive material falls within any of the categories of patentable subject matter set forth in Sec. 101.

... a signal does not fall within one of the four statutory classes of Sec. 101.

... signal claims are ineligible for patent protection because they do not fall within any of the four statutory classes of Sec. 101.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter as follows. Claim 10 is drawn to functional descriptive material recorded on a computer-readable medium. Normally, the claim would be statutory. However, the specification, at page 106 defines the claimed computer readable medium as encompassing statutory media such as a "ROM", "hard drive", "optical drive", etc, as well as **non-statutory** subject matter such as "...a program that composes the software is installed from a network..." (wherein if the software is installed from a network then the examiner maintains that this is merely a signal transmitted over some sort of undisclosed communication means and is therefore non-statutory).

A "signal" embodying functional descriptive material is neither a process nor a product (i.e., a tangible "thing") and therefore does not fall within one of the four statutory classes of § 101. Rather, "signal" is a form of energy, in the absence of any physical structure or tangible material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over David et al (US PgPub 2002/0131764), hereinafter referred to as David, in view of Kikuchi et al (US Patent 6,532,334), hereinafter referred to as Kikuchi.

Regarding **claim 1**, Regarding **claim 1**, David discloses identifying, recording, and reproducing information. Further, David discloses a video, audio, and/or data signal processing system comprising a recorder for recording video and/or audio and/or data material on a recording medium, which reads on the claimed, “an information process apparatus that manages data recorded on a record medium,” as disclosed at paragraph [0010]; the apparatus comprising:

a second generator for generating second, universally unique, identifiers for pieces of material, the second identifiers being generated in respect of one or more of the first identifiers, which reads on the claimed, “first generation means for generating management information that associates a first identifier that can identify the data in any area with information about the data,” as disclosed at paragraph [0010];

a first generator for generating first material identifiers for identifying respective pieces of material on the medium such that each piece is differentiated from other pieces on the medium, the first identifiers need not be universally unique and can thus be smaller than the universally unique identifiers (i.e., the second identifiers), which reads on the claimed, “second generation means for generating a second identifier...the data amount of the second identifier being smaller than that of the first identifier,” as disclosed at paragraphs [0010]-[0012];

camcorder (500) which records video and audio material on a recording medium along with metadata, the metadata being linked to the material by UMID's (i.e., the first identifier) and MURNs (i.e., the second identifier), the MURNs being generated as the material is recorded on the tape and preferably being recorded in the user bits of tape time codes, which reads on the claimed, "addition means for adding the second identifier generated by the second generation means to the management information to associate the second identifier with the information about the data; and record means for recording the management information to which the second identifier has been added by the addition means on the record medium," as disclosed at paragraphs [0090]-[0094].

However, David fails to disclose the second identifier that can identify the reproduction history of the data in a storage area of the record medium. The examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to include the missing limitations, as taught by Kikuchi.

In a similar field of endeavor, Kikuchi discloses an information reproducing system, information recording/reproducing system, and recording medium applicable to the system. Further, Kikuchi discloses MPU of the microcomputer block (30) functioning as if it had a playback end information setting section (30A) by writing playback interrupt information table (124) into the disc, the table (124) including the title number of the title whose playback has been interrupted, the cell ID whose playback has been interrupted, and when the playback picture is a still picture, the time the still picture lasts and the remaining time of the still picture during the interruption of the

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playback are written, and further the elapsed time in reproducing a cell is written as interrupt information, which reads on the claimed, “the second identifier that can identify the reproduction history of the data in a storage area of the record medium,” as disclosed at column 11, lines 24-67 (with particular emphasis on lines 24-34 and lines 44-48) and column 15, lines 5-8, as well as exhibited in figures 6 and 9.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of David to include MPU of the microcomputer block (30) functioning as if it had a playback end information setting section (30A) by writing playback interrupt information table (124) into the disc, the table (124) including the title number of the title whose playback has been interrupted, the cell ID whose playback has been interrupted, and when the playback picture is a still picture, the time the still picture lasts and the remaining time of the still picture during the interruption of the playback are written, and further the elapsed time in reproducing a cell is written as interrupt information, as taught by Kikuchi, for the purpose of producing a seamless reproduction operation of a recording medium in the event of an interruption.

Regarding **claim 2**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). Further, David discloses camcorder (500) recording video and audio data on a recording medium as well as metadata may be recorded on the tape, which reads on the claimed, “wherein the data contain at least one of video data, audio data, and meta data added to the video data,” as disclosed at paragraph [0090].

Regarding **claim 3**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). Further, David discloses that the UMID links the material data to the metadata and that it comprises a universally unique identifier, which reads on the claimed, “wherein the information about the data contains information about a directory path name and a file name of the data,” as disclosed at paragraph [0091].

Regarding **claim 4**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). Further, David discloses UMIDs having 23, 32, or 64 bytes and MURNs being written in the 80 time code user bits, which reads on the claimed, “wherein the first identifier is composed of 64 bytes and the second identifier is composed of 20 bits,” as disclosed at paragraphs [0091], [0251], and [0284].

Regarding **claim 5**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1). Further, David discloses the MURNs comprising a Tape ID as well as a number that increments, decrements, or otherwise varies from material to material on the tape, which reads on the claimed, “wherein the second identifier is composed of a first portion that represents the type of the data and a second portion that represents a serial number of the second identifier,” as disclosed at paragraphs [0095] and [0286].

Regarding **claim 6**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 5). Further, David discloses that when a new MURN needs to be generated the MURN generator interrogates the telefile to find the highest previously used MURN value, increments it and uses that as the new MUR

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value, writing the new MURN value back to the telefile, which reads on the claimed, "search means for searching a plurality of second identifiers recorded on the record medium for the maximum value of the second portion, wherein the second generation means generates the second identifier according to the maximum value for which the search means has searched so that the second identifier does not become redundant to the plurality of second identifiers recorded on the record medium," as disclosed at paragraph [0290].

Regarding **claim 7**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (See claim 1). Further, David discloses an ingestion processor (178) which therefore represents a data processor which can access any of the video tape recorders (204) in order to reproduce the audio/video material from the video tapes loaded into the video tape recorders, which reads on the claimed, "reproduction means for reading the data from the record medium and reproducing the data," as disclosed at paragraph [0234].

Regarding **claim 8**, the combination of David and Kikuchi discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7). Further, David discloses editing terminal (184) communicating a request for material data, reading the UMIDs identifying the audio/video material and then in response to this request the ingestion processor (178) selectively reproduces these material items that are identified by the UMIDs from the recording medium, which reads on the claimed, "read means for reading the management information read by the record means; and hold means for holding the management information read by the read means, wherein the reproduction means

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reads the data to be reproduced from the record medium according to the management information read by the read means and held by the hold means and reproduces the data,” as disclosed at paragraph [0237].

Regarding **claim 9**, the examiner maintains that the claim is the corresponding method to the apparatus of claim 1, and therefore the limitations of the claim are rejected in view of the explanation set forth in claim 1 above.

Regarding **claim 10**, David discloses that the methods described herein may be embodied and represented as instructions of a computer program, as disclosed at paragraph [0315]; further, the examiner maintains that the claim is simply the corresponding program implementing the method of claim 9, and therefore the limitations of the claim are rejected in view of the explanation set forth in claim 9 above in addition to the disclosed paragraph [0315].

Regarding **claim 11**, the limitations of the claim are rejected in view of the explanation set forth in claim 9 above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARC DAZENSKI whose telephone number is (571)270-5577. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (571)272-7905. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marsha D. Banks-Harold/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/MARC DAZENSKI/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621